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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
1 - Mr. J. P. Mohr
1 - Mr. N. P. Callahan

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: January 22, 1968

1 - Mr. A. Rosen
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
1 - Mr. R. E. Lenihan

FROM : Mr. W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
NOVEMBER 22, 1963,
DALLAS, TEXAS

By letter of 1/16/68 Assistant Attorney General Fred M. Vinson, Jr., forwarded the request of one of Clay L. Shaw's attorneys for information on former Special Agent William W. Turner, as Turner may be a witness at Shaw's pending trial. Turner is the self-centered, embittered individual who has made frequent scurrilous attacks upon the Director and the Bureau since his dismissal from the FBI. In recent weeks Turner has been closely associated with New Orleans District Attorney James C. Garrison.

The attorney, Edward F. Wegmann of New Orleans, advised the case of Louisiana vs. Shaw will be tried on or about February 13, 1968. Wegmann inquired whether Turner resigned from the FBI or was discharged and whether he ever was a member of the White House Secret Service Detail. Mr. Vinson speculates that if Turner appears as a witness he may be used in an attempt to discredit the Kennedy assassination investigation conducted by the FBI and other Government agencies.

Ordinarily, in answering an inquiry from a non-Federal Government source concerning a former employee, we supply minimum information, including dates of employment, position, and, if appropriate, that his services were terminated. Within the past year we have had two inquiries from Federal Government sources concerning Turner and we have answered them in much greater detail than usual. One was from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in March, 1967, after a "Ramparts" magazine article had appeared concerning CIA subsidizing of various fronts or foundations. Turner, a member of the "Ramparts" magazine staff, had called at the Asia Foundation in San Francisco attempting to secure information concerning the source of the Foundation's funds, and CIA then filed a service record inquiry with us concerning him. In September, 1967, the National Security

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Agency made a service record inquiry. These two inquiries were answered much more fully than usual, as indicated above.

Though the current inquirer, Attorney Wegmann, is in no sense a Federal Government agency, his inquiry has been transmitted to us through the Department. Because of this and because of the unique nature of this particular inquiry, it is felt we should furnish a concise memorandum to the Department setting forth brief facts as to Turner's FBI employment and dismissal and his efforts to obtain reinstatement in the FBI. This information has been prepared by the Administrative Division in this particular matter. It is felt that in furnishing this information to the Department, we should point out to the Department that it must be the Department's decision as to whether any or all of this information concerning Turner should be given to Mr. Wegmann.

Our files contain no information indicating whether Turner was ever a member of the White House Secret Service Detail. This information could be obtained by the Department through a check with the Secret Service or by the Department referring Mr. Wegmann to the Secret Service.

ACTION:

Attached for approval is a letter to Assistant Attorney General Vinson transmitting to him a concise summary of Turner's employment, dismissal and efforts to obtain reinstatement in the FBI. We are informing Mr. Vinson that it must be the Department's decision as to whether any or all of this information is to be given to Mr. Wegmann by the Department.

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